production in Tamil Nadu during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Catch (In tonnes)
1985	8530
1986	8041
1987 (provisional) . . .	9320

The above data indicate that there is no decline of shrimp catch off the coast of Tamil Nadu. The marginal fall noticed in shrimp catch in 1986 is due to natural fluctuations.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of drinking water in Tamil Nadu

1306. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages without any source of drinking water in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the target for Tamil Nadu in Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) what part of this target has been fulfilled so far; and

(d) the funds spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) As on 1-4-1985, there were 4882 problem villages (PVs) in Tamil Nadu to be provided with safe drinking water facilities in the Seventh Plan period. During 1-4-1985 to 31-9-1988, 1957 problem villages have already been covered, leaving 2925 problem villages to be covered in 1988-89 and 1989-90.

(d) The State Government has reported that an amount of Rs. 57.38 crores under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Rs. 94.07 crores under the State Sector M.N.P. has been spent during 1-4-1985 to 30-6-1988.

Research on water Hyacinth

1307. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research studies have been conducted by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore for biological control of water Hyacinth and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that NDRI, Karnal, another ICAR Institute, had after years of research developed technology to use water Hyacinth as a valuable cattlefeed and if so, the details thereof indicating the quality of water Hyacinth actually used as cattlefeed;

(c) whether in view of (b) above Research and Development work at (a) above would not be counter productive; and

(d) whether there is any mechanism for research coordination amongst the ICAR Institutes/Agricultural Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. Research conducted under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Biological control of crop pests and weeds at the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore has successfully utilised two exotic natural enemies viz Neochetina eichhoriniae and Neochetina bruchi as effective biological control agents of water hyacinth under Bangalore conditions.

(b) Yes, Sir The possibilities of using water Hyacinth as a cattle feed have been investigated both at N.D.R.I. and other ICAR Institutions including State Agricultural Universities. After squeezing the water hyacinth plants to remove excess water, the top can be chopped, mixed with rice straw or sorghum/maize stover. This has been found to be palatable by pigs and other animals. Statistics on the usage

of the water hyacinth as cattle-feed is not available.

(c) No, Sir. Biological control of this weed is essential in water ways, irrigation channels, tanks etc. that have been blocked completely by the water hyacinth. These areas could have been otherwise beneficially used for fisheries, irrigation, navigation etc.

(d) A senior officer of the Indian Council of Agricultural research is normally on the boards of management/Executive Councils of State Agricultural Universities and of ICAR Regional Committees. Holding of workshops of coordinated projects periodically and of ICAR Regional Committees annually ensures required coordination between ICAR Institutes and Agricultural Universities.

Prices of garlic

1308. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that garlic which was sold at fantastically high prices last year in various *mandis* has gone abegging this year and has no buyers even at ten to five per cent of the last year's prices;

(b) what is Government's estimate about the garlic yield in different States last year and this year; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Central and State agencies to help the growers of garlic to obtain a fair price for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): The garlic prices in 1986-87 were abnormally higher due to lower production in 1985-86. Though the prices during the current year are lower than the last year, these prices are still higher as compared to normal years.

(b) The production of garlic in major States during 1985-86 and 1986-87 is given below:

State	('000 tonnes) 1985-86	1986-87
1. Bihar	5.0	5.7
2. Gujarat	15.8	13.4
3. Haryana	8.4	10.4
4. Madhya Pradesh	40.7	58.0
5. Maharashtra	25.5	29.6
6. Orissa	66.4	56.5
7. Uttar Pradesh	12.6	19.9
Others	15.2	12.5
ALL-INDIA	189.6	206.0

Similar estimates for 1987-88 are not yet available from all the States.

(c) Since the ruling market prices are at present reasonably at higher levels, there does not seem to be any need for market intervention.

Propagation and promotion of Sanskrit language

1309. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the names of media programme which have been and are likely to be introduced on All India Radio and Doordarshan to propagate and promote the use of Sanskrit language as an integrating force for strengthening national unity and solidarity?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): All India Radio and Doordarshan do not introduce broadcast/telecast in languages with a view to propagating/promoting languages. Broadcasts in languages are made to serve the communication needs of listeners. Several stations of All India Radio broadcast programmes in Sanskrit to acquaint the listeners with the rich heritages and noble sentiments embodied